

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A cuticle treatment and conditioning composition, said composition ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of a semi-solid emollient, said emollient comprising having esterified compounds at least partially derived from at least one of natural seed and nut oils.

Claim 2. (original) The semi-solid emollient composition of claim 1 wherein the composition has a melt temperature ranging between 40-60 degrees Celsius.

Claim 3. (original) The semi-solid emollient composition of claim 2 wherein the composition further has a melt temperature ranging between 47-51 degrees Celsius.

Claim 4. (original) The product of claim 2 wherein the semi-solid emollient composition imparts a dry feel to the user.

Claim 5. (cancelled) The product of claim 2 wherein the semi-solid emollient composition for cuticle treatment comprises esterified materials derived from natural seed and/or nut oils

Claim 6. (previously presented) The product of claim 1 wherein the esterified natural organic oils comprise jojoba esters.

Claim 7. (cancelled) The emollient of claim 5 wherein the esterified natural organic oils are saturated and/or unsaturated ethyl esters and/or isopropyl esters of (a) long-chain fatty acids, and/or (b) alcohols, wherein the long-chain fatty acids and alcohols are derived from plant seed oils.

Claim 8. (original) The semi-solid emollient composition of claim 2 that further includes one or more active ingredients.

Claim 9. (original) The semi-solid emollient composition of claim 8 wherein the one or more active ingredients is selected from the group consisting of antifungals, colorants, fragrances, antimicrobial

agents, analgesics, topical anesthetics, skin whitening agents, sun blocks, insect repellants, vitamins, hormones, proteins, cosmeceuticals, and botanical extracts.

Claim 10. (currently amended) A product for treating cuticles, ~~the~~ said product comprising consisting essentially of:

(a) a semi-solid emollient composition ~~for cuticle treatment~~, said composition comprising esterified compounds at least partially derived from at least one of natural seed and nut oils; and

(b) a container that retains the semi-solid emollient and enables the user to apply the emollient to a selected surface without the user having to touch the emollient with his/her finger tips.

Claim 11. (original) The semi-solid emollient composition of claim 10 wherein the composition has a melt temperature ranging between 40-60 degrees Celsius.

Claim 12. (original) The semi-solid emollient composition of claim 11 wherein the composition further has a melt temperature ranging between 47-51 degrees Celsius.

Claim 13. (original) The product of claim 11 wherein the semi-solid emollient composition imparts a dry feel to the user.

Claim 14. (original) The product of claim 11 wherein the semi-solid emollient composition for cuticle treatment comprises esterified materials derived from natural seed and/or nut oils.

Claim 15. (original) The product of claim 14 wherein the esterified natural organic oils are jojoba esters.

Claim 16. (canceled) The emollient of claim 14 wherein the esterified natural organic oils are saturated and/or unsaturated ethyl esters and/or isopropyl esters of (a) long-chain fatty acids, and/or (b) alcohols, wherein the long-chain fatty acids and alcohols are derived from plants seed oils.

Claim 17. (original) The product of claim 11 wherein the emollient further comprises one or more active ingredients.

Claim 18. (original) The product of claim 17 wherein the one or more active ingredients is selected from the group consisting of antifungals, colorants, fragrances, antimicrobial agents, analgesics, topical

anesthetics, skin whitening agents, sun blocks, insect repellants, vitamins, hormones, proteins, cosmeceuticals, and botanical extracts.

**Claim 19.** (original) The product of claim **11** wherein the container has an opening and includes a removable cap that covers the opening.

**Claim 20.** (original) The product of claim **19** wherein the container is a pencil form.

**Claim 21.** (original) The product of claim **20** wherein the pencil form container is less than 10" in length.

**Claim 22.** (original) The product of claim **11** wherein the container is a propel/repel container that includes a device for extending the semi-solid emollient composition retained therein.

**Claim 23.** (original) The product of claim **22** wherein the container has an opening and includes a removable cap that covers the opening, the emollient capable of being extended through the opening.

**Claim 24.** (original) A method for treating a cuticle using a semi-solid emollient composition comprising the steps of providing a semi-solid emollient composition in a container and applying the semi-solid emollient composition on a selected area without touching the semi-solid emollient composition with any fingertips.

**Claim 25.** (original) The method of claim **24** further comprising the step of extending the semi-solid emollient composition past an opening in the container before the step of applying the semi-solid emollient composition on a selected area.

**Claim 26.** (original) The method of claim **25** wherein the step of extending the semi-solid emollient composition past an opening in the container is the step of extruding the semi-solid emollient composition past the opening in the container.

**Claim 27.** (original) The method of claim **25** wherein the step of extending the semi-solid emollient composition past an opening in the container is the step of removing portions of the container, thereby leaving a portion of the semi-solid emollient composition behind and extending past a remaining portion of the container.

**Claim 28.** (original) The method of claim **24** further comprising the step of removing the a cap from the container of the semi-solid emollient composition before the step of applying the semi-solid emollient composition on a selected area.

**Claim 29.** (original) The method of claim **28** further comprising the step of replacing the cap on the container after the step of applying the semi-solid emollient composition on a selected area.

**Claim 30.** (original) The method of claim **24** further comprising the steps of removing a cap from the container of the semi-solid emollient composition before the step of applying the semi-solid emollient composition, extending the semi-solid emollient composition past an opening in the container before the step of applying the semi-solid emollient composition on a selected area, wherein the step of extending the semi-solid emollient composition past an opening in the container is the step of extruding the semi-solid emollient composition past the opening in the container, and replacing the cap on the container after the step of applying the semi-solid emollient composition on a selected area.

**Claim 31.** (previously presented) The method of claim **24** further comprising the steps of removing a cap from the container of the semi-solid emollient composition before the step of applying the semi-solid emollient composition on a selected area, extending the semi-solid emollient composition past an opening in the container before the step of applying the semi-solid emollient composition, wherein the step of extending the semi-solid emollient composition past an opening in the container is the step of removing portions of the container, thereby leaving a portion of the semi-solid emollient composition behind and extending past a remaining portion of the container, and replacing the cap on the container after the step of applying the semi-solid emollient composition on a selected area.